



Avon, CT



Award: Bronze | Spring 2023

Award History:

Previously Honorable Mention in 2021.

Avon's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **2**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**
 Connecticut's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#20**

Community Profile

Population: 18,932
 Area: 22.6 square miles
 Population Density: 837.7 people/square mile
 Land Classification:
 Suburban
 Poverty Rate: 4.4%*
 Median Household Income: \$123,077*
 Percent of the Population that Speaks a
 Language Other Than English at Home: 20.5%*
 Percent with Disability: 9.6%*
 Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 0.3%*
 *Source: <https://data.census.gov/profile?g=060XX00US0900302060>

Avon's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:
https://avonct.myrec.com/forms/5925_avon_trail_network_map.pdf
Bike Plan, if available:
 N/A - no bike plan

The 5 Es Category Scores	Avon	Max Score this round
Engineering	22%	53%
Education	30%	56%
Encouragement	27%	68%
Evaluation & Planning	14%	42%
Equity & Accessibility	7%	37%

Percentages shown above are the points received out of total points available in that category. See pages 2-3 for Avon's subcategory points earned within each Category.

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.3%

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.4%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown

(Reported by applicant)

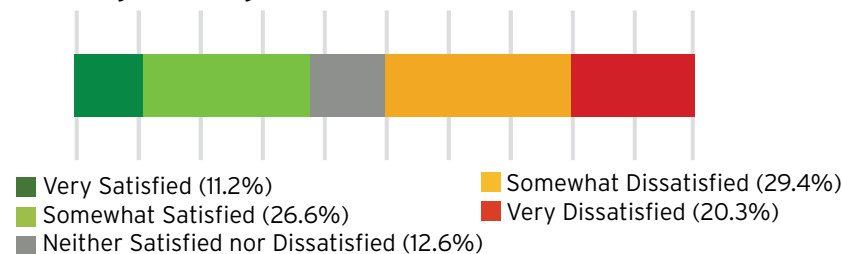
Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 1.4

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0

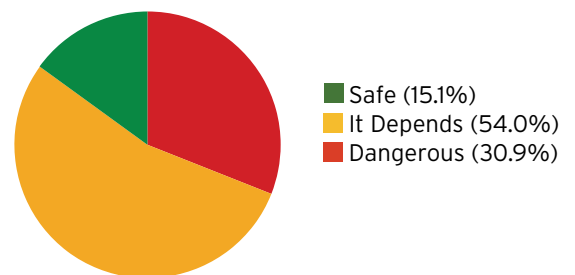
(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Avon, CT

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 143)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 139)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 142)

1. More bike lanes (33.1%)
2. More bike paths (28.2%)
3. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (9.9%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Avon in the Spring 2023 Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) submission round. These scores reflect a combination of automatically-generated points earned through the online application, as well as judge-assigned points and bonus points given by BFC reviewers.

The League updated its Bicycle Friendly Community application and awards criteria in the Summer of 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, interviews, listening sessions, and other outreach. The updated application includes a new section on Equity and Accessibility, and other changes throughout. As such, **this Bicycle Friendly Community Report card is a beta version** as we refine our new scoring system and develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information.

All Spring 2023 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are significant changes to the points system after the next round of BFC applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>Avon earned 22% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Avon earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Avon's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	5 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	7 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	23 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	14 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	4 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	1 / 21 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	15 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	4 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Avon earned 30% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Avon earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Avon's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	16 / 69 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	23 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	9 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	5 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	2 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	3 / 7 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Avon earned 27% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Avon earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Avon's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	2 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	2 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	29 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	6 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	6 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	2 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Avon earned 14% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Avon earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Avon's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	2 / 40 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	8 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	2 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	2 / 24 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	2 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	14 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	0 / 7 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Avon earned 7% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Avon earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Avon's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	4 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 12 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0 / 31 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	2 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	6 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	1 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	4 / 58 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1 / 9 pts	



Avon, CT

Award: Bronze | Spring 2023 | Award History: Previously Honorable Mention in 2021.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

To maintain and improve on Avon's Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » According to Avon's 2023 BFC Application, the Town is under contract with a third party consultant to develop a town-wide bicycle and pedestrian master plan. This is a wonderful opportunity to commit to long-term improvements in your infrastructure, programming, and planning processes. Be sure to have the new plan focus on adding low-stress and context-appropriate bike facilities, adding connections to the bikeway network, lowering roadway speed limits and design speeds through traffic calming, and institutionalizing equitable engagement and planning processes going forward. Establish equity-related indicators to inform the new plan and all future prioritization and budgeting processes.
- » Adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- » Develop a design manual that meets current NACTO standards or adopt the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. This will make it easier for city staff to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other cities and towns throughout the United States. Ensure that your community follows a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume.
- » Increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community. Conduct a bike parking study or audit to determine current conditions of bike parking, both in terms of quality and quantity. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards to ensure that APBP-compliant bicycle parking is readily available. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)
- » Congratulations on the planned launch of Valley Bike Share in 2024! Consider what efforts the Town can make before the program launches to ensure it is equitable and accessible to all, such as subsidized membership options for lower income residents, and adaptive cycle options for riders with disabilities.
- » Work with local bicycle groups and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program to all K-12 schools. In particular, middle and high school education efforts could be improved – this is particularly important as older students learn to drive and share the road. Appoint or hire a dedicated Safe Routes to School Coordinator to lead these efforts.
- » Develop education and encouragement outreach methods and programs that specifically target families, women, seniors, low-income, and non-English speaking communities, in addition to general non-targeted outreach and media campaigns that discuss current and new bicycle facilities, safe driver and bicyclist behavior, and events related to walking and biking.
- » Increase the amount of staff time spent on improving conditions for people who bike and walk, either by creating a new dedicated position or expanding the responsibilities of current staff. Ensure that this position is well supported with training and professional development opportunities to stay up-to-speed on the latest best practices and safety guidelines for bicycle planning, outreach, and infrastructure.
- » Create an official Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to create a systematic method for ongoing citizen input into the development of important policies, plans, and projects. Ensure that the members of the committee reflect the diversity and ability levels of cyclists in your community.



Avon, CT

Award: Bronze | Spring 2023 | Award History: Previously Honorable Mention in 2021.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Conduct a connectivity analysis and network quality evaluation of your existing bicycle network, and work to identify and fill any gaps. Establish a performance measurement program for bicycling and/or active transportation infrastructure. See FHWA's resources on these topics: https://bit.ly/FHWA_connectivity and https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs.
- » Continue to develop a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection including automated bicycle counters to provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points and mobile counters to provide periodic or before/after data related to changes in your community's road or bicycle network. Adopt a target level of bicycle use (percent of trips) to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and ensure data collection necessary to monitor progress.
- » Continue efforts to plan for and implement the "Tarrifville connection" trail connection between Canton, Avon and Simsbury with the City of Hartford, including seeking out funding opportunities and creating a detailed timeline for project phases

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-Sp23>
- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/community>
- » **Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community:** https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources
- » **About the BFC Application Process:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » **The Five E's:** <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » **The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking and Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/university>
- » **Smart Cycling Education Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » **Advocacy Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:**
<https://bikeleague.org/take-action/policy-advocacy/federal-policy/federal-resources/>
- » **Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities from U.S. DOT Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds:**
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>